

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the amendments above and the following comments. Claims 1, 2, 7-9, and 12-16 were pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, and 8-9 and 12-16 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 7 has been amended, and new claims 17-24 have been added. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 7 and 17-24 are pending.

Claim Rejections of 1, 2, 12, 13, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

In response, applicants have cancelled claims 1, 2, 12, 13, 14 and 15, and added new replacement claims as suggested by the Examiner in the March 3, 2005 Office Action. Applicants note that the new claims are exactly the way the Examiner has suggested for allowance except for a few minor changes. For example, new claim 17 recites an "isolated or purified peptide" rather than "isolated and purified peptide." In addition, applicants have deleted SEQ ID: 14 from claims 17 and 18 because it is the same as SEQ ID: 3. Applicants have inserted the phrase, "at least one further amino acid outside the peptide or peptide derivative," to claim 17. The Examiner has previously objected to this phrase in claim 1 because this wording was in combination with the feature "truncated to nine contiguous amino acids." As the feature "truncated to nine continuous amino acids," is no longer present, applicants believe that this objection no longer applies. Applicants believe that

these minor changes to the suggested allowable claims by the Examiner do not change the allowability to these new claims. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections of 1, 2, 7-9, and 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

In response, applicants have cancelled claims 1, 2, 8-9, and 12-16. Claim 7 has been amended to be in accordance with new claim 17. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Objection to Claim 2

In response, applicants have cancelled claim 2. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this objection.

Allowable Subject Matter

As applicants have stated above, applicants have cancelled the pending claims and replaced them with new claims 17-24 as suggested by the Examiner except for a few minor changes.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks it is believed that the claim is in condition for allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefore. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

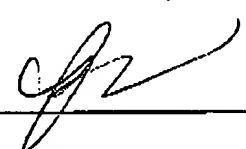
ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,

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By _____



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